Increase in ceiling of Insured amount

1302. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government to increase the ceiling amount per insured person per year to Rs. 1200/- and consequent E.S.I. sanctioned of Rs. 57.20 crores per year to the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The ESI Corporation is providing funds for medical care at the rate of Rs. 600/- per IP family per annum for running the medical scheme. The expenditure is shared between ESIC and State Government in the agreed ratio of 7:1. The proposal received from the State Government regarding enhancement of ceiling on medical care was considered by the ESIC and it has been decided to get a study done through a reputed professional institution so that a realistic ceiling for medical care could be fixed.

Plight of Beedi workers in Orissa

1303. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of the Beedi workers in Orissa;

(b) whether a large number of workers are sitting idle without job as most of the Beedi working industries are on the verge of closure;

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide alternative employment to these workers; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Government is implementing a number of welfare schemes in the fields of Health, Housing, Education and Recreation for the benefit of beedi workers and their dependants from the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund. Apart from this, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 has been enacted to safeguard the interests of beedi workers. The State Government is advised from time to time to strictly enforce the provisions of various labour laws.